

# Bi-Weekly Review

September 14, 2007



**Date:** September 14, 2007

**To:** Workforce Investment Board Members

**From:** Bryan Rogers, WIB Executive Director

**Subject:** **Workforce Development Update**

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- **Meet the Graduates**



*Brownfields graduates listening to keynote speakers*

This week saw the graduation of trainees from two Network-funded Projects. On Thursday, 18 residents graduated from the inaugural 5-week class of our Environmental Remediation project through which participants prepared for employment in the remediation of Brownfields sites. At the graduation event held at the Center for Working Families for graduates and their families, it was announced that 10 of the

18 graduating trainees had already found employment.

Then on Friday, 13 young men and women graduated from the Youth Opportunity Center/Center for Working Families' inaugural Utility Industries Pre-Apprenticeship program. The project is overseen by the Bridge – one of the Youth Center's seven WIA service providers – and is a 10-week mix of introduction to careers with utilities employers, intensive math skills development, and certifications required for employment in the water, gas and electrical power industries. The graduates had the opportunity to attend a mini-job fair organized just for them by the Utility Apprenticeship Trust. Participating employers included Southern California Edison, American Water and Golden West Water.

ADMINISTERED BY:



- **Inspiring Local High Students**

The start of a new school year also marked the beginning of rich work experiences for 50 local high students this week who are participating in the Youth Opportunity Center's Hire-A-Youth Internship Program.

The youth will gain outstanding work experiences with local businesses, earn related skills certificates and service learning credit, and receive 10 high school elective credits.



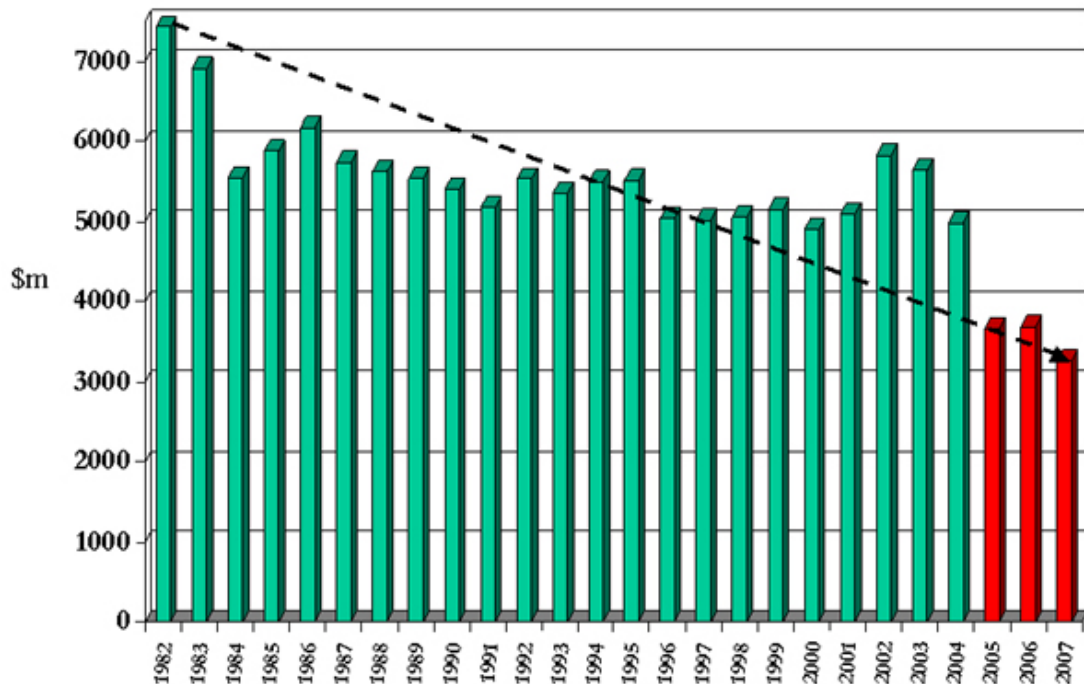
- **WIA Rescission Update**

The Bad: As previously mentioned, the House adopted earlier this summer a proposed \$335M rescission of WIA funds as part of the appropriations package for Labor-HHS for the federal fiscal year starting October 1, 2007. The money became a target because of the carry-over balance of last year's WIA money that the Department of Labor trumpeted as excess funds. Although WIA provides 3 years to spend the money in order to ensure continuity of training and other services commitments, DOL consistently presents the case that any carry-over is an indication of there being more than sufficient money for the WIBs and One-Stop Centers. Such a rescission would remove about \$39M from current year money in California, with a trickle-down of around \$600-\$700k from the Network's budget. This would translate to a significant reduction of services to residents and businesses.

The Good: There is reason to believe that the Senate won't include the rescission in its final Labor-HHS appropriations bill. Senate appropriations leaders on both sides of the aisle have been our champions the last several years, insisting on final appropriations language that prohibits DOL from imposing any rescission or re-writing regulations.

What's Next: Assuming the Senate does not adopt the rescission in its Labor-HHS appropriations bill, advocacy efforts throughout our system will focus on Conference Committee, which must reconcile the two chambers' differences before a final bill can be approved and sent to the President. The California Workforce Association, and our national workforce leadership associations are all preparing the WIBs and local "electeds" to support another round of "Dear Colleague" letters asking House Members to drop the rescission.

Total DOL Outlays for Grants to State and Local Governments  
In Constant FY2000 Millions of Dollars (1982 through 2007)



While claims of excess \$ in the WIA system continue, this slide says a lot...

- **Harbor WorkSource Performs at the Top**

Earlier this week I had the opportunity to attend and answer questions of the L.A. WIB's Policy and Oversight Committee where it took action on the recommendation for funding for the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network. At that meeting the WIB Sub-Committee presented the 06-07 performance outcomes of its WorkSource Centers throughout the City. Harbor was one of only two Centers that earned the full 4 stars in their rating system that looks at customer satisfaction, measured outcomes, customer flow, and administrative capability.



- **Movin' Up**

As most of you know, our Department's Director, Pat West, has been selected by the LB City Council to serve as the new City Manager. He takes over the helm on September 24. Although a direct loss for us at the day-to-day Department level, as the new City Manager, a better supporter of workforce development issues and its agenda the WIB could not find.

- **L.A. County Funding for Homeless Vets in Long Beach**

The City of Long Beach has been awarded a \$500,000 grant to improve and enhance specialized services for homeless veterans in the City. Census statistics show that up to 14% of the total number of homeless veterans in Los Angeles County can be found in the Long Beach area. The goal of this new funding is to design services for homeless veterans that address their unique needs. This grant – made possible by L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe – will allow the City to work more closely with L.A. County Mental Health and provide a higher level of service for homeless veterans.

- **WIB Meeting Next Thursday**

As a reminder, our WIB Meeting is Thursday, September 20 at the LB Airport Marriott. Business will begin at 8:00 a.m., with breakfast available at 7:30. The agenda will be posted and sent out on Monday. Looking forward to good discussions at the Meeting – see you all there!